

ATARI INTEROFFICE MEMO

To: Andy Jones

Date: 9/23/83

From: Joe Davis

Subject: 3600 Controller Options

A market research focus group study will be conducted during the first week of October to evaluate a variety of possible controllers for the 3600 video game system. Prototypes of several controller concepts are being developed in preparation for the study. Due to the 3600 schedule constraints, the controller prototypes will all be modifications of existing controllers (i.e., for which tooling exists). The controller options for which prototypes are currently being developed are as follows:

--A proline controller with no modifications.

--A proline controller with bumps on the actuator that act to guide the joystick to the nearest of the eight joystick positions.

--A proline controller with an octagon shaped mechanical stop to guide the joystick to the nearest of the eight joystick positions.

--A proline controller with a diamond shaped mechanical stop to guide the joystick to the nearest of the four x-y joystick positions (would be a removable insert on the normal proline controller).

--A digital version of the Pax (\$200) controller with an octagon shaped mechanical stop.

--A digital version of the Pax (\$200) controller with an octagon shaped mechanical stop and a rotating insert that converts the mechanical stop to a diamond shape for maze games.

--A self-centering analog Pax controller with additional circuitry that allows it to act like a digital controller or a paddle controller for 2600 games and as a digital or analog controller for 3600 games. A rotating insert may be added to reduce the size of the mechanical stop when used as a digital

controller.

--A self-centering analog Pwm controller with gimballed potentiometers (if the prototypes can be made in line).

All of the controllers to be tested will be self-centering.

If there are any other suggestions for additional controller features that could be incorporated into any existing controller housings (even if it requires some modification to the housing), please bring them to my attention as soon as possible since all prototypes must be completed by September 30.

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